

FLO  
688

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Korea

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 27 FEB 51

SUBJECT Korean Public Opinion and Rumors regarding  
the Seoul Situation

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIRED 25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF  
INFO. SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50  
U.S.C., 21 AND 23, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION  
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-  
HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. Among refugees fleeing south from Pyongyang from 5-8 December 1950, the follow-  
ing sentiments and rumors were commonly voiced:
  - a. It was expected by the North Korean population that since the UN forces  
were in the nature of an international police force they would warn the  
North Koreans before they made a strategic withdrawal. The UN forces  
completed their withdrawal from Pyongyang within four days, however, with-  
out advising the civilian population.
  - b. There was an interval of two days after the UN withdrawal before the entry  
of Chinese Communist troops into Pyongyang. During this time, the popula-  
tion could have crossed the Taedong River and moved south, but most of them  
remained in the city\* in terror and despair because of a rumor that the UN  
forces were preventing refugees from crossing the river.
  - c. The vanguard of troops entering Pyongyang were actually Soviet. They were  
followed by the main body, which was of different (unknown) nationality.\*\*
2. Refugees moving south observed heavy traffic of military vehicles and trucks  
as far as Kaesong (126-34, 37-58), but from there on no vehicles were seen.
3. Pyongyang refugees hoped to find a secure place to settle in Seoul. Upon  
arrival there about 7 December, however, they observed the departure of de-  
pendents of Republic of Korea military personnel and others and became disillu-  
sioned and uneasy. Most of them remained in Seoul because they had no citizen-  
ship certificates and hesitated to move on into South Korea.\*\*\*
4. The departure of a member of UNCURK and of the family of a member of the Amer-  
ican embassy in Seoul about 5 December disturbed ROK military personnel and  
stimulated the evacuation of their dependents southward. Many other Seoul res-  
idents followed the lead of the military dependents and moved south also. These  
were principally old persons, women, and children, since men within the military  
reserve age limits were prohibited from leaving the city.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

|       |  |  |                                       |
|-------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| STATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB | <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTION |
| ARMY  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR  | <input type="checkbox"/> FBI             |                                       |

25X1

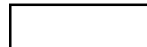
This document is hereby regraded to  
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the  
letter of 13 October 1973 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Archivist, United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2006/02/01 : CIA-RDP82-00457R006900610008-5

VOID

STAT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 2 -

5. Communist fifth column elements in Seoul about 8 December were spreading the following rumors:

- a. The bridge over the Han River will be destroyed at once.\*\*\*\*
- b. Dependents of government officials will be evacuated before 12 December.
- c. Chinese Communist troops will cross the 38th Parallel on 8 December and will enter Tosong (126-28, 37-58) by noon.
- d. President RHEE has decided to move the ROK government to Tongyong (128-26 34-50). The government will move within two days.

25X1 25X1 \* Comment. , about 80 percent of the population left the town.

25X1 25X1 \*\* Comment. the first troops entering Seoul were Chinese Communists, and few Soviets have been seen. 25X1

25X1 \*\*\* Comment. The ROK government issued citizenship certificates to bona fide ROK residents in order to distinguish between them and the leftish elements who served the North Koreans during their occupation of the south. The certificate is also valid as a travel document.

25X1 25X1 \*\*\*\* Comment. This rumor has been circulating constantly, 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~